Chapter 13
Monitoring Type Codes

Monitoring Type Codes are assigned by DM&A at the request of TCEQ Programs—CRP, SWQM, CWQMN, TMDL, WQ Standards, NPS. These codes are used to designate the bias and intent of sample collection.

Data reporting entities request new codes by submitting a Submitting Entity/Collecting Entity/Monitoring Type/Tag Prefix Request and Review Checklist to DM&A.

Submitting entities can obtain this form from multiple locations. For SWQMIS users, the forms are in the SWQMIS module named 'Forms'. Those with access to the TCEQ via the internet can locate the forms on the DM&A Form page.

Choosing the Appropriate Monitoring Type Code

Below is the guidance for choosing the appropriate codes. If assistance is needed, please contact your TCEQ Project Manager or the program area data manager.

Characters One and Two

The first two characters of the Monitoring Type Code is used to convey information about bias in sampling to end data users, so the first two characters of the code are determined by any targeted sampling conditions.

Code	Description	Use this code if your samples are:
RT	Routine Sampling	scheduled in advance without intentionally trying to target any certain environmental condition; Samples are collected regardless of the conditions encountered
BS	Biased Season	scheduled for a certain time of year because the sample means to capture the conditions characteristic of that time of year; samples are collect regardless of the flow condition encountered
BF	Biased Flow	not precisely scheduled in advance because they target a certain flow condition that must be present in order for the sample collection to occur
BE	Biased Event	not typically scheduled in advance; monitoring is reactive to an emergency condition
CD[1]	Continuous Data	LEADS data generated by the CWQMN—monitoring intent not characterized
CE[1]	Continuous Event	individual measurements from continuous

monitoring	targeted toward a specific	event— code summary statistics “BE”
CF[1]	Continuous Flow	individual measurements from continuous monitoring targeted toward certain flow conditions—code summary statistics “BF”
CS[1]	Continuous Season	individual measurements from continuous monitoring targeted toward a certain time of year—code summary statistics “BS”
CT[1]	Continuous Routine	individual measurements from continuous monitoring not intentionally targeted toward any environmental condition—code summary statistics “RT”

Characters Three and Four

The last two characters of the code are determined by the intent or objective of the monitoring activity.

Code	Description	Use this code if your monitoring is:
UA	Use Attainability Analysis	a structured scientific assessment of the factors affecting the attainment of uses of a water body
SI	Source Identification	monitoring intended to establish the origin of a recognized impairment or degradation of the water body the project is monitoring
RW	Receiving Water Assessment	a structured scientific water quality characterization of a water body that is or will be receiving run off or discharge from a permitted entity
LF	Load Contributions	intended to define or quantify the amount of loading of a certain parameter or parameters a water body is receiving
PD	Permit Development	related to permit actions not covered by another monitoring type code
SD	Standards Development	related to standards development and is not covered by another code
BA	BMP Effectiveness Monitoring	related to BMP effectiveness monitoring and is not covered by another code
TF	Model Calibration and Verification	related to calibrating or verifying an environmental model and is not covered by another code
WD	Watershed Characterization	solely intended to understand the basic physical, environmental, and human elements of the watershed

Examples of Four Character Codes

RT[2]	Sampling scheduled in advance without intentionally trying to target any certain environmental condition. The sampling seeks to set a baseline for the site. Sample will be collected regardless of the conditions encountered.
BS[2]	Sampling scheduled for a certain time of year because the sample is intended to represent the conditions characteristic of that time of year. The sampling seeks to set a baseline for the site. Samples will be collected regardless of the flow condition encountered.
RTSI	Sampling scheduled in advance and is not intentionally targeting any environmental condition. Rather than trying to establish a baseline at the site, the sampling is intended to identify the origin of a recognized impairment or degradation of the water body.
BFLF	Sampling only occurs if a certain flow regime is encountered. The ultimate goal of the sampling effort is to define or quantify the amount of loading of a certain parameter or parameters the water body is receiving.
BSSD	Sampling scheduled at a specific time of year. The data will be used in developing the TSWQS, and no other code is more specific to the intent of the sampling.

[2]RT and BS can be used without a 3rd and 4th character code, as long as the sampling is intended to establish baseline conditions of the monitoring site.

Quality Assurance Codes

These code are used to identify quality assurance sample events, and do not require the 3rd and 4th character codes.

CQ[1]	Continuous QA
EB	Equipment Blank
FB	Field Blank
FS	Field Split
TB	Trip Blank
QA	Quality Assurance

[1]Continuous monitoring samples include CWQMN, and the individual grab samples that are collected during continuous sonde deployments such as 24-hr DO monitoring.

Retired Monitoring Type Codes

These codes are no longer in use, but are still associated with historical data.

AC	Arroyo Colorado Assessment—for Arroyo Colorado Shrimp Farm Project
BN	Biological—not for use determination (collection consistent with TCEQ protocol, does not meet TCEQ vouchering requirement)
CM	Citizen monitoring

DI	Diel sampling—multiple field measurements conducted over a 24-hour period and/or summary 24-hour D.O. statistics
DL	303(d) List related monitoring—additional sampling to further characterize the extent and severity of 303(d) listed impairments
ER	Ecoregion study
EX	Experimental analytical samples—samples from test sites and equipment samples set to the lab for analysis.
FL	Flow monitoring study—flow monitoring to support permit actions
GR	TCEQ Data Management general review
IS	Intensive/systematic—sub-watershed monitoring on a cyclical basis
NA	DQO's not appropriate for 305(b) Assessment
NI	DQO's not appropriate for 305(b) 24 hour data
NP	Nonpoint source sampling—samples that characterize non-point source loading
NS	Non-surface water sampling
RG	Rio Grande Toxic Substance Study—for TCEQ Central Office RGTSS only
RS	Real-time continuous monitoring
SE	Special event—sampling done at fish kills, spills, flood events, etc.
SS	Special study—for monitoring scheduled as part of an approved special study
TI	24-hour sampling collected under a TMDL QAPP; multiple field measurements conducted over a 24-hour period and/or summary 24-hour D.O. statistics
TM	Targeted monitoring
TN	Sampling collected under a TMDL QAPP, but not appropriate for 305(b) assessment
TQ	Sampling collected under a TMDL QAPP and is appropriate for 305(b) assessment
TS	Targeted Monitoring Special Study—site specific monitoring to support permit actions
XN	SWQM acquired nonpoint source sampling
XR	SWQM acquired routine/baseline water sampling
XS	Data acquired by SWQM for special studies
XX	Type of sampling unknown—historical data